PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

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REBEL AGAINST RACISM

The racist police murders of Pedro Villanueva, Delrawn Small, Alton Sterling, and Philando Castile—on four consecutive days in July—are not isolated incidents or the work of a few "bad cops." They are all too typical atrocities that expose the true face of capitalism. And they show the working class a glimpse of the heightened racist violence and bigger imperialist wars coming our way.

Capitalism cannot be reformed, nor can it be stopped by a lone wolf sniper firing into a crowd. The Progressive Labor Party fights to eliminate cops and imperialism for all time by destroying capitalism with mass revolutionary violence—with communist revolution.

The road to revolution is long and challenging. But the militant response to the latest wave of killings by cops, in demonstrations from Britain and Canada to New York and Los Angeles, shows that the capitalists haven't terrorized the international working class into submission. In the German capital of Berlin, more than 120 police were injured in what authorities called "the most aggressive and violent protests in the last five years" (cbsnews.com, 7/10). Workers around the world are once again inspiring millions by fighting back!

Workers' Response to KKKop Terror: Fight Back!

On Saturday, July 9, 50 members of the Progressive Labor Party led a march from the intersection of Church and Nostrand Avenues in Flatbush, a Black working-class neighborhood in Brooklyn (see photo). PLP has had a presence here for three decades. With chants of "Shut this racist system down!" and "Asian, Latin, Black and white, workers of the world unite," the multiracial group of communists and friends shut down traffic and marched through an annual street fair on Flatbush Avenue.

Along the way, Black workers raised fists and chanted with us; 50 workers joined the march at various points. PL'ers sold 500 CHALLENGEs and distributed 1,000 leaflets calling for fightback against racist police terror with communist revolution. Even after we ran out of literature halfway through the march, workers continued to approach us to exchange contact information and find out more about us.

Taking the Streets of Manhattan

On Thursday, July 7, thousands of multiracial workers and youth angrily marched out of Union Square at a Black Lives Matter-led rally and took the streets of Manhattan. Chanting "Shut it down!", they blocked busy streets and snarled miles of traffic. PL'ers sold hundreds of CHALLENGEs and led revolutionary chants, as hundreds of youth pounded on car windows and frustrated cops' attempts to direct and control the demonstrators.

Workers' Anger Turning Up Against Killer NYPD KKKop

On July 4, an off-duty New York Police Department officer murdered 37 year-old Black man Delrawn Small at a Brooklyn traffic stop. Videos taken by bystanders show the unarmed Delrawn approaching the vehicle and being immediately shot in the head and chest, contradicting the cop's claim that Delrawn punched him in the face through the car window. Delrawn's girlfriend and two children witnessed the cold-blooded killing.

On July 5, dozens of community and family members rallied at the intersection where he was killed. After a pacifying lecture by liberal Black misleader Charles Barron, a New York State assemblyman, the workers and youth heard a militant and heartfelt speech from Small's brother. Then the crowd—including a multiracial PLP group—took the street in a rally originally organized by Barron with the NYPD's blessing. But the event soon spun out of this class traitor's control, as Black and Latin workers and youth aimed their anger at the cops gathered around them. Barron appealed for calm and blamed the protesters for "having their own agenda." One PL'er called out to Barron, "What about YOUR agenda?", prompting some laughter from the Smalls family.

Liberal politicians like Barron are wolves in sheep's clothing. The bosses use them to calm workers' justified rage and channel it into the bosses' electoral circus. PL'ers sold CHALLENGEs, made contact with members of the Small family, and have followed up with home visits. Our aim is to unmask the danger posed by liberal snakes like Barron, and to build a mass anti-racist movement against these killer police.

Bosses Need Racist Police Terror

From the U.S. and Mexico to Russia and China, the role of law enforcement in all capitalist countries is to protect private property and suppress

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PLP, friends, and neighborhood residents march against racist police terror Flatbush, Brooklyn. Families from street fair join.

OUR FIGHT

✯Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✯ the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✯Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✯While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✯Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✯Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✯Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✯Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✯Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✯Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

U.S. Imperialism and ISIS
Big Terror vs. Little Terror

As U.S. bosses use state terror to murder Black workers in cold blood (see page 1) and send drones to massacre workers and children from Pakistan to Yemen, the same capitalists are hypocritically denouncing regional imperialist ISIS (also known as the Islamic State) for its latest wave of slaughters in Turkey, Bangladesh, and Iraq.

The ISIS misleaders are mass-murdering capitalists cloaked as religious fundamentalists, lashing out in a desperate attempt to hang on to the Middle East oilfields they have seized since 2013. Meanwhile, some of the world's biggest terrorists—U.S. imperialists, their NATO allies, and rival imperialists in Russia—are intensifying their bombing of ISIS-controlled areas to regain control of those same oilfields.

Whoever controls the production and flow of oil in the Middle East, home to the largest reserves of cheaply extractable petroleum in the world, gains a huge advantage over its competition. The region's workers are caught in the middle of a deadly imperialist chess game.

ISIS: Death and Taxes

On June 28, at Ataturk Airport in Istanbul, Turkey, three suicide bombers killed at least 41 people and wounded more than 200 others. On July 2, in the capital city of Dhaka, Bangladesh, at least 29 people were killed after five ISIS gunmen took hostages in a popular café. On July 3, in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, ISIS suicide bombs killed more that 200 people and wounded hundreds more in a busy shopping district. On July 4, four suicide bombers attacked three sites in Saudi Arabia, including one near the U.S. Consulate in Jidda.

Assuming ISIS was responsible for all of these strikes, why these particular countries? Turkey bridges Europe, Asia and the Middle East, and is an indispensable member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the main instrument of U.S. imperialist interests against Russia. Bangladesh is a staunch U.S. ally and lies a stone's throw from China, the third big imperialist power. Iraq contains the third-largest oil reserves in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia is the region's largest oil producer by far and a strategic counterweight to Russian ally Iran.

As inter-imperialist rivalries sharpen, and a broader global conflict looms, bosses of all stripes are driven to spill more workers' blood to protect their investments and gain political, economic and military leverage. In the strategically vital Middle East, South and Central Asia, and Horn of Africa, the bosses' media has focused on the recent violence by ISIS, the Frankenstein's monster born out of the cataclysmic, 13-year U.S. war against Iraqi workers. Since mid-2014, ISIS's proclaimed "caliphate" has lost 50 percent of its territory in Iraq and 20 percent in Syria, along with much of its oil revenue. But even as the group has been forced to cut pay to its fighters, eliminate jobs and bribes, and impose harsh taxes in areas it still holds, it has intensified its indiscriminate killing of Muslim and other workers. As Op-Ed columnist Hasan Hasan noted in the New York Times (7/11):

> *Some people have suggested that this is a sign of the group's desperation and weakness. In fact, it demonstrates its strength and long-term survival skills.… Even American officials have told me privately that the political changes necessary to stem the group's appeal in Iraq and Syria are lagging behind the military advances. The number of members volunteering to blow themselves up is not a sign of a dying group.*
>
> *The threat is not going away. The group's ultimate goal remains unchanged: control of the Muslim world.*

Workers Caught in Imperialist Crossfire

The second, far deadlier source of terror comes from Russian and U.S imperialism, which routinely slaughters Muslim workers with both piloted and drone airstrikes. (Although China has signaled a willingness to join the Russian air campaign against ISIS, its current focus is to consolidate military control over the South China Sea and to challenge U.S. economic influence in Latin America and Africa.) In Iraq alone, the U.S. state terrorists have killed more than a million workers and orphaned an estimated 800,000 children (Iraqi Children Foundation website).

The future holds only more devastation for the working class. Beyond their callous destruction of workers' lives, ISIS terror attacks have given the U.S. state terrorists cover to re-escalate their military presence in Iraq. In April, the fragile Iraqi government gave in to a U.S. push to introduce Army Apache attack helicopters, raise U.S. troop presence to more than 4,000, and move U.S. "advisors" much closer to the front lines (CNN.com, 4/18). On July 11, terrorist-in-chief Barack Obama authorized the deployment of an additional 560 troops to assist in recapturing Mosul, the largest city still controlled by ISIS (New York Times, 7/11).

Terrorism Fuels Fascism

Within the U.S., the bosses are attempting to exploit workers' fears of terrorism to accelerate the rise of fascism. Spearheaded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Shared Responsibilities Committees" have the stated purpose of countering violent extremism in the U.S. Composed of of mental health professionals, social service workers, and religious leaders, among other ruling-class agents, these teams are designed to identify workers who may be "at risk" for committing terrorist acts or joining a terrorist group (Washington Post, 7/5).

The program has already been implemented in communities with large Arab and Muslim populations, like Dearborn, Michigan. Ron Haddad, Dearborn's police chief, "has a deep network of contacts in the community and makes regular visits to Dearborn's 38 schools and its many mosques…. At least twice in the past several years, fearing influence from [ISIS] or online propaganda on their children, Haddad says, Muslim fathers have turned in their own sons. In another case, it was students at a largely Muslim high school calling about a troubled peer" (politico.com, 3/24).

All things considered, the big terrorists and little terrorists are more alike than different. All of them exploit, oppress and divide workers to preserve and expand the bosses' profits. None of them have any qualms about murdering our class brothers and sisters, regardless of race, religion or gender. To overthrow these blood-sucking monsters, the Progressive Labor Party must win masses of workers to fight for international working class unity and mass revolutionary violence. Only then will we smash capitalism and terrorism for all time. Join us!✪

No Trump, No Clinton, The Whole Damn System's Gotta Go

TEXAS, June 17—Communists led hundreds of workers at an anti-Trump protest outside a country club fundraiser to form a picket line and confront the cops, homeland security, and their liberal racist collaborators.

PLP took aim to expose both Trump and the Democratic Party as the anti-working class tools of the ruling class that they are. Both had scheduled major events here in the same week, and we kicked off our summer project to take them on.

For Trump's fundraiser, we wrote a leaflet and members of our base translated it. It called on workers to "Defend Our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters" and to fight back against the racist terror of both Trump and Clinton. It connected the role of inter-imperialist rivalries with the bosses' escalation of racism. We attacked Trump's overt anti-immigrant racism and Clinton's record of genocidal war in the Middle East.

At the protest, police cordoned off an area with barricades for the anti-Trump rally. About 500 protesters lined the barricade waiting for Trump to arrive. As the crowd stood waiting, our group of PL'ers and friends turned the event into a march. We organized a picket line and began marching back and forth behind the barricade. While the liberal misleaders chanted "Dump Trump!" we influenced the entire rally with our chants of "No Borders, No Nations, No Racist Deportations!" and "Hillary, Trump All the Same, Racist Terror is the Name of Their Game!" As we marched we got out hundreds more leaflets.

Racists, Go Home!

Minutes after Trump's motorcade arrived, a group of Trump supporters crossed the street and taunted the protesters. At the front of the area where the confrontation started, our group began leading a chant of "Racists Go Home, Racists Go Home!" Dozens of protesters rallied behind us as we pressed forward to confront the racists. We were ready for a fight and so were scores of protesters behind us.

Revealing their true face, the liberal "peacekeepers," who had been trained by the liberal misleaders to act as police-collaborators to prevent protester fightback, rushed in to form a barrier between Trump's racist supporters and us. The "peacekeepers" formed a barrier in order to protect the Trump supporters from us, yelling for us to "move back!"

City police and Homeland Security cops stood behind the "peacekeepers" as they watched the liberals do their job for them.

Eventually the racists backed off. The "peacekeepers" kept yelling for us to "move back!" but we continued to chant with the masses who had surrounded us: "Deportations mean, we got to fight back! Racism means, we got to fight back!" The entire confrontation only lasted a few minutes but it showed us a glimpse of what is possible with PL's leadership.

Organizing is Key

Our strength in leading the fightback stemmed from our organizing effort leading up to the event. We leafleted around town for days, calling on workers to join us in confronting Trump. We talked to nurses, doctors and construction workers in the medical center area where Trump was scheduled to speak. Some took stacks of leaflets to hand out to co-workers inside the hospitals.

We got out hundreds more leaflets in parts of the city with concentrations of immigrant and Black workers. Our message of multiracial unity with immigrants under attack by racist politicians was well received and many workers pledged to attend the protest.

Trump, Clinton, Two Faces of The Same Coin

The day following the Trump event, the Democratic Party was wrapping up it's state convention downtown. We and canvassed the area and convention hall, handing out hundreds, and had lots of good conversation with workers. Though the majority were Clinton supporters, many gladly took the leaflet, acknowledging that they support her because they feel she is the lesser evil compared to Trump (see more about Clinton on page 8).

Many may still vote for the Democrats in the upcoming election, but we came away with a sense of greater possibility. Despite the bosses' efforts in this election, their hold on the ideas of the working class is limited. Many workers support either candidate because they have been told the only way to fix society's problems is by voting. But many have lost some faith in the ability of capitalist democracy to solve their problems. This is an opportunity for PLP to show the limits of what the rulers will offer and that only communism offers workers a world run for us and by us.

As we move forward this summer, we will hold schools on communist philosophy and history, at which we plan to bring our friends and contacts we've made throughout the summer project. Join us and stay tuned for more fightback!✪

Teachers Insurgency vs. Fascist Repression

MEXICO, June 13—Hundreds of teachers and other workers carried on the fight as they beat back the fascist attacks of the Mexican ruling class's armed thugs in Oaxaca. United, workers blocked road access, burned down a police station and hotels used by snipers. The many years of the country's militarization along with the rulers' organized political crimes are used to oppress the working class by all three parts of the government. At the same time the electoral parties show a total submissiveness and collaboration with the police state we face. The mass movement led by the CNTE (the national teachers union) is one of the few with the strength needed to face the bosses' attacks. It is no coincidence that the capitalist class is trying to annihilate this movement so they can advance their multimillion projects.

The police started the criminal attack against hundreds of teachers who defended themselves with sticks and rocks, putting up barricades, and blocking the road from Nochixtlan to the city of Oaxaca. Police shot at the crowds, killing more than 10 and injuring more than 50. The bosses' henchmen thought it would be easy, but as soon as nearby workers realized what was happening, they joined the teachers to repel this criminal attack. "The longer they were there, [the] more people came to confront them, the police retreated, some of them beaten by the people," a journalist said.

The population jumped on them and the hordes of murderous cowards retreated. Everywhere, on the way to Oaxaca, they met with workers' resistance. That first night, the troops occupied the first square of the city of Oaxaca, but the following morning thousands of teachers and neighbors were out on the streets forcing them to retreat. The ruler's strategy of exhaustion, discrediting the teachers in the media, and police repression did not scare the CNTE. The CNTE is stronger amongst all the teachers' throughout Mexico. They are tired of the impunity, the corruption, the government and their genocidal politics.

The popular movement led by the CNTE is reformist—it defends labor and popular rights. While at this moment it is playing a crucial part confronting the police state, reforms of capitalism don't work for workers. The capitalist system will never meet the basic necessities of the working class, like education, health and housing—but will reduce salaries and labor rights. The capitalists' government's rejection of the demands from this popular movement shows once again that capitalism has no interest in solving workers' problems. The CNTE has a few anti-capitalist positions but it does not organize to destroy the root cause of our misery and suffering: the whole system. This is the job of communists in PLP.

The education reform the teachers are fighting against is racist privatizing of the education system and leads to the firing of thousands of teachers. It also leads to even more oppression of teachers and indigenous communities. The economic background of these reforms is that the ruling class and their imperialist partners need to destroy popular opposition in order to take large extensions of communal land in the south and center of the country. The development of projects and infrastructure will affect thousands of the indigenous population. It might be thought that the expansion of the Lázaro Cárdenas and Chiapas ports and the creation of the oil industrial corridor Coatzacoalcos-Tabasco-Campeche could bring wellbeing and improve the conditions in the region, but because of the capitalist nature of maximizing profits to compete in the imperialist market, we know that these projects will only bring evictions and dispossessions of thousands of farmers and miserable salaries.

International solidarity from NYC to Mexico

Right now, the seven-week strike and mobilizations by the teachers and population in the states of Chiapas, Guerrero, Michoacán, and Oaxaca, has the rulers on the defensive. What they really want is to protect companies like PEMEX, Walmart, ADO, Moctezuma and others, which have been affected by the strikers' road blockades. Osorio Chong, Government Secretary responsible for the repression in Nochixtlan, is preparing another attack in the next few hours, or days.

PLP has taken an active part in this movement, discussing and spreading the communist analysis through flyers and CHALLENGE. This mass movement gives us the opportunity to make significant advances, to develop our organizing for the communist revolution. We can win many people tired of the hellhole of capitalism. Let us take the challenge—let's win more young workers, teachers, farmworkers, and students to the fight for a communist revolution.✪

FIGHT RACIST TERROR

Continued from page 1

the one force that can bring this racist system down: the working class. Meanwhile, the job of the rulers' politicians is to deceive us with the patently false idea that workers and the bosses' cops are on the same side and want the same things. President Barack Obama made this message clear at the memorial for the five cops killed in Dallas, Texas: "I see what's possible when we recognize that we are one American family, all deserving of equal treatment." The apologist-in-chief skirted the fact that equal treatment is a fantasy in a capitalist country founded in genocide, built by slave labor, and sustained by racist inequalities in every aspect of life.

The misleaders who push identity politics and Black nationalist ideology divide us by misdirecting the blame for racism on white workers. The true problem of the international working class is capitalism, a system organized to generate profits for the few at the expense of the needs of the masses. Capitalism creates the divisive ideologies of racism, sexism, and nationalism. Capitalism feeds on super-profits from its super-exploitation of Black, Latin, immigrant and women workers. Capitalism leads inevitably to imperialist war, as rival national ruling classes compete for global control over resources, markets and cheaper labor.

Modern U.S. police departments evolved out of early U.S. history, when wealthy landowners funded groups of fugitive slave-catchers. Later, these "law enforcement" officers collaborated with Ku Klux Klan chapters in terrorizing Black worker and keeping them divided from their white and immigrant working-class sisters and brothers through the corrosive pathology of racism.

But the bosses are confronted with a huge contradiction. On the one hand, they need racist police terror to keep the masses in check; on the other, they need these same Black and Latin youth to fight in their unending imperialist wars. While liberals like Obama push all-class unity (a hallmark of rising fascism) and try to limit police violence, gutter racists continue to murder our sisters and brothers in the street.

The bosses can never resolve their contradiction. The job of communists and friends of PLP is to sharpen the contradiction—and ultimately to smash the bosses—by winning workers to fight back in multiracial unity.

Racism, Nationalism Justify Imperialist Wars

Racist state terror in the U.S. can only intensify as the U.S. capitalist class drives toward wider imperialist wars with their Russian and Chinese imperialist rivals. The U.S. and Chinese bosses are in stiff competition over control of the South China Sea and sub-Saharan Africa, as well as economic supremacy in Latin America.

U.S. and Russian imperialists—along with their respective proxies, Saudi Arabia and Iran—are vying for control over the oil-rich Middle East and strategically vital Central Asia. With each step closer to a global war, the bosses need more intensive racism—against Muslims and immigrants as well as Black and Latin workers—to divide and intimidate the working class, and to justify mass imperialist slaughter.

Revolution, Not Fake "Solutions"

According to the Mapping Police Violence project, U.S. cops killed at least 346 Black people in 2015—nearly one per day. Black people are more than three times more likely to be killed by police than white people, and Black victims are more than 50 percent more likely to be unarmed. Of the 102 cases (and probably more) where unarmed Black people were killed by cops in 2015, only ten resulted in an officer being charged with a crime. Only two cases resulted in cops being convicted, and only one led to a cop serving significant jail time.

SAN FRANCISCO—Mutiracial protesters shut down streets in response to latest murders by police.

Systemic racism is evident in both the statistics and the nature of these murders. On July 3, for just one example, nineteen-year-old Pedro Villanueva was wantonly gunned down in his pickup truck after a high-speed chase by highway patrolmen in an unmarked car in Fullerton, California. Villanueva's alleged crime: showing off his driving skills in a parking lot "sideshow" (Los Angeles Times, 7/5). "Friends of Villanueva questioned the officers' decision to follow the teenager with an unmarked car, contending that he may not have known he was being pursued by police, but rather feared he was being robbed on the dead-end street" (L.A. Times, 7/6).

These recent racist killings expose the futility and emptiness of reform measures—body cameras, "community policing," sensitivity training and the rest. In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Alton Sterling was murdered as the pigs pinned him to the ground, the police department claims that both of the kkkops' mandated body cameras had coincidentally "fallen off."

Nor does it do the working class any good to have more police look like their victims. Jeronimo Yanez, the cop who murdered Philando Castile at a suburban Minneapolis traffic stop, is Latin. Three of the kkkops who faced criminal charges for killing Freddie Gray in Baltimore were Black. Twenty of the 68 police chiefs in the Major Cities Chiefs Association are Black (New York Times, 7/11), yet modern-day lynchings by cops continue unabated. A "diversified" police force is still a racist police force.

PLP: For Mass Revolutionary Violence

When 25-year old former Army Reservist Micah Johnson killed five cops at the Black Lives Matter rally in Dallas, he made the work of anti-racists and revolutionaries that much harder. Apparently set off by by the racist police killings of Sterling and Castile, Johnson retreated into individualism and adventurism when he shot the police. In the end, he was murdered by a police drone on wheels—executed without a trial, like so many Black workers in the U.S.

Johnson was reportedly a former member of the New Black Panther Party (NBPP), a fringe group that represents nationalism at its worst. Preying on Black workers' frustration, the group's leaders target white workers, and Jewish workers in particular, with vile and open racism. Johnson' outlook was no doubt formed by capitalism's daily racism, by the trauma of serving in the rulers' imperialist war in Afghanistan, and by the toxic ideology of the likes of the NBPP. He was driven to mental illness and suicide-by-cop. To the extent that nationalist groups succeed in dividing our class, they help only the bosses. They are a reactionary, anti-revolutionary element

PLP organizes within the bosses' military to build a mass movement for communism to seize state power and smash the dictatorship of the capitalists. Our strategy means struggling with masses of workers in the military to fight for our international class and turn the guns around—to turn imperialist war into class war for revolution.

Build A Fighting PLP!

Workers are fighting back, and our Party is in the thick of the struggle. Workers rebelled after the July 5 police murder of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge. As we go to press, women-led PLP fighters are marching alongside rebelling workers there (see page ?).

On Sunday, July 10, the day the NYPD shot and injured yet another Black man in Flatbush, Paul Mathurin, Black, white and Latin PL'ers talked with community members, sold CHALLENGEs and made contacts. Everyone in the neighborhood knew Mathurin and refused to believe the bosses' lies that he was waving a gun. The struggle to unite our class advances every day.

The worldwide working class, led by Progressive Labor Party, must persevere to build a mass, anti-racist, anti-imperialist movement. We must struggle against frustration and cynicism. We must stay the course with both communist urgency and communist patience. There are no shortcuts to revolution.

The bosses will never give up state power voluntarily. We need millions to join us worldwide and take it from them. Join PLP, and fight back!✪

WOMEN LEAD IN BATON ROUGE

Youth shut down highway. Racist murder of Black, Latin working class ends after defeat of capitalism

BATON ROUGE, LA, JULY 10—After Alton Sterling was murdered by the kkkops, Black workers carried out nightly protests. When the Progressive Labor Party heard this, we mobilized a multiracial group mainly women to go to Baton Rouge. Women, among them mothers who left child-rearing duties with their husbands, led the PLP group. The goal was to learn from our working class sisters and brothers and instill revolutionary communist politics into the fightback.

Sterling's murder was no accident. As one Black worker told PL, "The police who shot him knew him. Knew who he was. These were the same police that always patrol the neighborhood. They knew what they were doing." The kkkops who murdered Sterling were doing their jobs under capitalism: serving the bosses and terrorizing the working class.

Black workers in Louisiana, as elsewhere, feel the cutting edge of racism the deepest. The state of Louisiana has the third highest unemployment rate in the U.S.

Baton Rouge, the state capitol, ranked first in the U.S. for HIV and AIDS case rates in 2013. The vast majority of these cases are in the segregated Black working class neighborhood of north Baton Rouge, where one-third of Black workers live below the official poverty line, and where Black men had a 46 percent high school graduation rate (New York Times, 7/11/16). New Orleans, only less than two hours away, is where in 2005, the capitalist disaster Hurricane Katrina and Rita sideswiped the city, and the bosses abandoned over 100,000 Black workers in New Orleans, murdering over 1,000.

Workers, Youth, Reds Turn Up

PLP joined a demonstration at steps of the state capital building. A multiracial crowd of over 1,000 workers was quietly listening to prayers and speeches given by a church group. PL'ers led chants on the bullhorn as the crowd began marching. The responses chants and CHALLENGE newspaper sales were militant and enthusiastic. Within minutes, the PL'ers became the leadership of the whole march.

A teenage girl asked if she could be on the mic. She then led us in chanting, "No justice, no peace! No racist police!" The unity of the workers and their anger were palpable.

One Black woman worker, infected by identity politics, told a white woman PL'er she shouldn't lead the chants. The comrade responded by arguing for multiracial unity—this fight belongs to the whole working class. This Black worker insisted there were "already too many white people."

But the other Black workers in the crowd weren't having it—they told the comrade not to ignore the nationalist. Everyone continued chanting, "Black and white—shut it down, Asian and Latin—shut it down, woman and men, shut it down, with multi-racial unity—shut it down! The PL'er was judged and respected by her antiracist politics, not her skin color.

Misleaders Pacify, Reds Electrify Workers

The deadly trap of identity politics, especially Black Nationalism, is robust in the boss-funded Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement—liberal white billionaire George Soros, best known for exporting capitalist "democracy" and diverting workers' fightback into support for U.S. imperialism, has gifted BLM with millions of dollars (Washington Times, 1/24/15). Black nationalism serve the bosses by blaming white workers for capitalism's racist horror house, instead of instead of fighting the bosses and building for revolution.

Consider the mass leadership provided by multiracial mainly-women communists in Baton Rouge. When boss-serving misleaders aimed to pacify workers and remain in a church parking lot, a vocal PLP Black woman worker on the bullhorn electrified the crowd and inspired them to take to the streets.

They took the streets and ran up against cops with guns and riot gear. A local worker called the PL'ers to warn of the police's plan to use tear gas. Since this particular balance of forces wasn't in the workers' favor, PLP and friends tactically retreated, warned the crowd of the cops, and regrouped.

The police drove a car into the remaining crowd and separated it. They made arrests, grabbing people by the necks and throwing some over fences.

Cops know how to take advantage of a disorganized march. PLP was able to sharpen the politics of the workers' anger. Comrades and friends work collectively to sharpen the fight. But, PL'ers also followed the leadership of workers.

The identity politics of groups like BLM purposefully drive a wedge in working class unity, while drawing in many honest antiracist workers and youth. PLP fights for the international working class to unite under communist leadership and smash this racist profit system.

From Baton Rouge To Every Continent: Build A Mass PLP!

In Baton Rouge, and in 27 countries, PLP is learning to fight and fighting to learn to build a mass communist movement to seize state power. The workers of Baton Rouge are angry and fed up. They are angry and frustrated with this racist system and its lack of jobs, its closings of schools and hospitals, and its unending police terror. They want real leadership and are open to communism. Although they are calling for the firing of the police chief and mayor, many understand that whoever takes over will continue to oversee racist terror on our class. Many also see past the nationalist lies that putting more Black people in ruling-class positions will improve the conditions of Black workers. Baton Rouge's mayor, Kip Holden, is Black and as many workers in Baton Rouge put it, "he is nowhere to be seen."

Workers can learn many lessons during these increasing surges of class struggle as the capitalist system exposes its inherently racist and violent nature. The bosses use their state power to exploit workers for profits, super-exploit some with racist terror, and send the workers' youth to fight in imperialist wars. It is the job of communists to build international working class consciousness. In fighting back, the working class gains confidence that it can build a communist society based on the needs of the working class. From Baton Rouge to every continent: JOIN PLP!✪

Protesters Defy Cops

Taste of Resistance

Chicago, July 9—Over 200 protesters, after stopping traffic in downtown Chicago, marched into the Taste of Chicago festival, disrupting capitalist business as usual.

PLP participants gave leadership through the distribution of 300 CHALLENGEs and a speech about fighting back and the need for communist revolution.

The protest began with 50 mostly young, mostly Black people rallying in Millennium Park to protest the racist police murders of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. Several speakers expressed their grief, outrage, and determination to fight.

A PLP member said police have always been racist—that their purpose is brutality and protecting the rich. She said that racism and capitalism are deeply entwined, and that communist revolution is the solution.

The comrade held up CHALLENGE and showed the front page article "Reds Smash Nazis."

He also spoke about marching in front of 6015 S. Normandy Ave, Chicago, IL 60638, the house of racist cop Jason Van Dyke. He had murdered LaQuan McDonald with 16 shots. Nearly everyone took a CHALLENGE.

After the rally, the protesters took over the streets of downtown Chicago. They stopped traffic, and gained protesters along the way. They chanted "No Justice, No Peace, No Racist Police," "Hands Up, Don't Shoot," and "You Can't Stop the Revolution."

The leaders welcomed the multiracial marchers and explained the strength of multiracial unity. After sitting in at several intersections and blocking more downtown streets, and picking up supporters along the way, the marchers turned towards Taste of Chicago. Defying the cops who wouldn't let the marchers in, we entered the festival Marching around Taste of Chicago, we picked up more participants as well as support from onlookers.

This march showed the working class at the moment is ripe for fightback and open to communist ideas. Comrades, friends, and workers everywhere—let's get in the streets, use CHALLENGE to spread working-class struggle, and sow the seeds of communist revolution!✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Chicago Workers Reject Segregated Fightback

In response to the killing of two Black workers by the kkkops within 48 hours, a number of comrades and I showed up at a solidarity demonstration here in Chicago. The 200-plus protestors present were justifiably outraged about having to add the names of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling to the list of workers snuffed out by the racist capitalist state.

Although I have been involved in numerous demonstrations in Chicago in recent years, this one was definitely one of the best. Unlike some of the protests in the city last year (provoked by Laquan McDonald's killing by the racist cop Jason Van Dykkke and the city's attempt to cover the murder up), there were no suggestions beforehand that this be a "blacks-only" protest. Nor were there any sell-out politicians or church leaders there to try and water down the militancy and anger. The workers there were truly heterogeneous: Black, Latin, Arab, Asian, white, women, men, young and old. Young black women led the march, but everyone appeared to be given the chance to contribute to the energy and outcome of the event.

The multiracial and militant approach paid off. The larger number of protestors made it possible to disrupt traffic at a number of intersections, even shutting down the busiest interstate highway in the city for at least fifteen minutes.

It was exhilarating to stand arm in arm with my fellow workers, flexing our collective muscle to defy a system that routinely destroys people's lives. It was also uplifting to have Challenge received so enthusiastically as we passed them out, and to hear PL's antiracist chants being shouted so passionately.I plan to use the inspiration I took from this event to intensify the struggle here in Chicago, and to win more of these bold workers to the fight for communism!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

India: CHALLENGE Gives me Confidence to Fight

I am a worker at a tissue factory in West Bengal, India. Recently I have come across a few issues of your paper CHALLENGE. In this time of utter confusion and surrender, CHALLENGE's voice and thoughts are giving us a glimmer of hope.

In the aftermath of scientific and technological revolution, workers were able to consolidate themselves into a class. As a result they could resist the onslaught of the torturous oppression by the bosses. One glorious example of such class resistance is the historical struggle of the May Day.

Today the workers across the world, for varied reasons, are scattered and do not have a Party of their own. Right now, the centuries old struggle and sacrifice that has resulted in the achievement of the working day of eight hours is almost lost. Violence in the name of development, market driven super profiteering, the chameleon character of the capitalist state as guard of capital are forcing us into a condition of defeat. In a retrograde manner, workers are being forced into a working day of 12 to 16 hours. And we are conceding defeat.

After reading these issues of CHALLENGE, there is a growing feeling that the conditions are changing worldwide. Workers are once again preparing the ground for an ensuing upheaval. They can, indeed, get organized into a working class Party. The organized workers would be able to resurrect themselves in the light of the historical Haymarket rebellion. The working class across the world shall once again join in singing:

"...We are summoning our forces from

Shipyards shop and mill

Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest

Eight hours for what we will..."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Strength through Struggle

Like most people, seeing the footage of the murders by kkkop of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling traumatized me.

I avoided watching the footage for a few days, knowing I was not in a strong enough mind-set to both hear about these tragedies and see them. I relented after thinking that the families of these people don't have the benefit of pushing away from these horrors. I watched 3 videos of the killings, one right after another, while I was alone. The experience was nothing short of devastating and alienating. Again, like most people, I became very depressed after having this experience. I withdrew from people because I couldn't bear talking about it, and avoided the internet. I could not perform work assignments because I literally didn't see the purpose.

It wasn't until I got together with comrades that I began letting myself hear others talking about having the same reactions I did. Hearing about the anger, anguish, and grief, all of us talking while holding back tears, let me know that I was not alone.

Seeing the brave actions of the working class, from Chicago to Minneapolis to Cleveland, let me know that it's with action that I'd find healing and affect change.

Participating in a rally and march in Brooklyn (see page 1) and planning to participate in actions elsewhere strengthened my resolve. We can't help being affected by the images of women, men, and children being murdered by this racist, sexist, capitalist system.

But we can find strength in fighting back with each other in an organized way to smash this system and create a system where lives mean more than profit.

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Bob Leonhardt, Lifelong Communist

Great obituary (CHALLENGE, 5/4) for a great leader of our Party who needed no title to show us how to study, learn and act as a communist! Bob was an intellectual, fascinated by the world of ideas, but also knew that without action and engagement in class struggles, those ideas would have no meaning.

He was also a great and loving husband, father of two and grandfather of five. He strove to have communist values lead in all his family relationships and provided an example of egalitarianism for us. He was a great friend to a very large and diverse group, giving principled support and struggle, as we must all do. He was a complex person who upheld and contributed to the ideas of communism and understood that the personal is political and the political is personal.

Thanks for reminding us that commitment to the Party fulfills our life.

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Learning from a Comrade I Never Met

I never met Bob Leonhardt. After hearing all the stories at his memorial, I deeply wished I had. The only deaths I have mourned in my lifetime are those of Party members, first Milt Rosen, the founder of Progressive Labor Party, and now Bob.

People talk about him, and all he taught them, with such admiration and love, that I too feel the loss secondhand. I know he told lots of fables, he made crude jokes about the ruling class, and was loved and admired by all people in and out of the Party. Bob taught the generation after him, and that generation is teaching me. In that way, communism not only keeps you young, it keeps you alive well past your death. In these volatile times, what better way to live your life than being part of the worldwide fight for communism?

Hearing his voice on the tape recorder at the memorial brought me to tears. Here is a man who went to Harvard and spoke multiple languages, who could've been a real big shot. He could've had the money, fame, and status—but he said the best thing he did with his life was join the Party. That he learned how to think from ordinary people. The capitalists can't even fathom the kind of success Bob had. Indeed, there are more things in communism and the Party than are dreamt of in the bosses' philosophy.

Capitalism has done a magnificent job in alienating young people and workers—from the mentally ill that go on a killing rampage, to the college students who commits suicide, to the everyday hustle of trying to make ends meet, to finding out your job isn't about helping people but bringing order/discipline to the working class. It's easy to get cynical about the possibility of change. But how could I say that I am alone in this fight—there are countless who came before me and countless who will come after me. Thank you Bob for filling me with confidence in our class, and our potential to make revolution.

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Remember Victims of Imperialist Slaughter

On July 1, 1916, one hundred years ago, British commanders ordered the Newfoundland Regiment, 780 men, to charge German machine guns. There was no cover at all. They first had to cut through or go around barbed wire defenses. They were slaughtered. There is no other word for it.

The next day only 68 men—8.7% of the regiment that had charged the day before—reported for roll call.

Why were they ordered to charge? There was no specific objective. British commanders showed little concern for colonial troops. Newfoundland was a British colony at that time.

World War I was a brutal imperialist war. It was fought for the redivision of territory among the big imperialist powers: England, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, the U.S., and Japan.

I am sure that today in Newfoundland there will be solemn memorial services.

But the imperialist, exploitative aims of the war, the fact that, like the Newfies, millions of other men and civilians were killed for nothing except to enrich the imperialist bosses—this will not be remembered. Not officially. But we the working class need to remember it.

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Conventions: Imperialist Organs

Continued from page 8

children into a small group with a future and a larger group without one. If teachers fail to fight back against the racist, anti-child, anti-worker agenda of the Weingarten leadership, conditions can only get worse.

Our opportunity to break with these misleaders is ever present. We must seize the time! Our class needs communism, a classless society. Our class needs leaders like the teacher-rebels in Oaxaca, not the warmongers, racists and illusion-peddlers who will top the Democratic and Republican party tickets this fall.

Join PLP to unite with a movement that will liberate the working class once and for all from capitalist exploitation and war.✪

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FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO

Pakistan: All Sector of Workers in Battle

PAKISTAN, July 8—From the steel mills to the hospitals and farms, the Progressive Labor Party is fighting shoulder to shoulder with workers and striving to win them closer to communism.

The Pakistani ruling class is assaulting workers on every front. They are raising the prices of basic necessities of life and imposing heavy taxes on poor workers as they give tax breaks to capitalists. They are increasing unemployment by privatizing the big industries as they use terrorism to keep us passive against all these anti-working class attacks.

PLP is gaining strength by exposing the rulers' and misleaders' lies. We are involved in many struggles while the misleadership of the puppet trade unions continually sells out the workers. The anti-privatization protests at Pakistan International Airlines and the Pakistan Steel Mill were strong: thousands of workers took the streets and morale was high. The union misleaders promised we would succeed if workers sacrifice their time and resources. Some workers fell for these lies. Then as usual, the union collaborated with the bosses and sold out our class.

Yet the working class advanced as PLP struggled with workers to see that only communist revolution can bring systemic change in their lives.

All Sectors of Working Class in Battle

While the bosses try to crush pro-communist ideas, we are struggling to bring the workers closer to communist ideas under the red banner of PLP. We are fighting back in the teachers' movement against privatization and within the landless farmers' movement against landowning bosses. Healthcare workers, including young doctors, nurses, and women's health specialists, held a work stoppage in demand for higher wages and service structure. Domestic workers are protesting against cops at their work places and for better pay and working conditions. Power loom workers and railway workers are organizing struggles against the bosses instead of following their union's puppet leadership.

Nurses take to streets and demand better pay and social benefits, causing business as usual to come to a halt.

PLP keeps these struggles alive, while being clear that only a communist revolution can foster a world run by the working class to provide the working and living conditions that workers deserve. Society will be run by and for the international working class.

Terror and Diversions

Bosses have divided the world into many so-called nationalities and religious sects. Different bosses' political parties and sections of the ruling class are at each other's throats. They try to divert working-class anger to serve their own profit interests and capitalist political parties, convincing workers to fight along national and religious lines.

While the bosses are always in competition with one another, they are all united in exploiting and attacking the working class.

The working class in Pakistan is passing through an awful phase of history. On the one hand, the bosses' parties are misleading them. On the other hand, boss-protected terrorists are killing them. Unemployment is rising and workers are also being used by nationalist, fundamentalist, sexist and racist groups to kill each other in the name of nation, religion and race.

Women workers are subject to vicious sexism. They are threatened and harassed at the work places and streets. The so called "Sharia Council" of the parliamentarians is creating more problems for them by introducing new theological laws that say women can be beaten and tortured if they ignore the orders of male family members. The leadership of women workers in the health and domestic industry, in the homes and streets, countering these sexist attacks.

Taking Leadership

Party members and workers worldwide should follow the example of the working class and comrades in Pakistan. Fight the bosses everywhere; in every factory, school or community. Fight racism, sexism and all divisions as we organize for higher wages or against police killings. But in every battle raise the red flag of communist revolution. There really is no other road for the workers of the world. Join the international Progressive Labor Party and fight for communism!✪

Expose Israel's Imperialist Link to Cuomo

NEW YORK CITY, July 7 —PLP and over 100 other demonstrators marched through soaring heat and hilly terrain, right to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's door to protest his support of Israel, a racist and fascist apartheid state. The whole town saw the march, and several Latin workers we met at the train station even joined the march. PLP members made sure there were chants in Spanish. This march was an important step in smashing borders and bringing all workers together: white, Black, Latin, Muslim, Jewish, men, and women.

Israel: Fertile Ground for Racism

With U.S. backing, Israel has colonized the West Bank and Gaza for 49 years. Palestinians are restricted from travel and suffer scarcities of food, water, and health care. Israelis abuse and humiliate Palestinians on a daily basis. Soldiers and settlers can kill Palestinians with impunity, and every few years the Israeli army rains mass slaughter on Gaza, the last time in 2014. Palestinians in Gaza can't even flee bombings because they are completely fenced in. Palestinian citizens of Israel, as well as Israeli Jews from Ethiopia, the Middle East, and North Africa, are also subject to intense racism and brutality.

There were two large rebellions, known as Intifadas, against Israeli rule in 1988 and 2002, which both failed under corrupt misleadership. As a result of these rebellions, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), instead of the Israeli Army, gets to arrest, harass, and kill Palestinians in some parts of Palestine. Today, there is no leadership for resistance. The main two parties, Fatah and Hamas, although different, are both corrupt and in it for their own enrichment. These parties can never liberate workers in Palestine. They fight for a separate, capitalist Palestinian state. Drawing borders will only divide workers and change which capitalist is in control. It will not end oppression and exploitation. Only worldwide communist revolution led by Progressive Labor Party gives a chance for workers to be free.

BDS: Big Fake Solution

About ten years ago a group of activists in the West Bank launched the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS) movement against the Israeli state. This movement aims to force businesses and institutions to stop investing in Israel via sanctions and boycotts. It has become an effective international tool for educating people about the horrific situation within Israel and Palestine and the bad publicity has gotten under the skin of Zionists everywhere. In the U.S., students who promote BDS have been threatened and intimidated on their campuses.

Several states are considering legislation against BDS, and in NY Governor Cuomo took matters into his own hands. He single-handedly issued a proclamation that all BDS supporters would be banned from doing business with NY State and be listed on the internet.

But let's be clear: the BDS movement cannot end oppression in Israel, or elsewhere. It is nationalist, focusing on the plight of Palestinians without regard to class. Workers in Palestine have more in common with workers in Israel than with the ruling class of Palestine. Palestine is a capitalist and highly unequal society. The Palestinian bosses cooperates with Israeli and international capitalists to exploit other Palestinian workers. There must be a struggle for a communist world, not just an end to occupation.

Many BDS supporters think a boycott alone can win politicians and achieve a free Palestine. They look to South Africa for inspiration. Fighters forget that years of armed struggle were most important there. More serious yet, the leadership in South Africa settled for an end to apartheid without ending capitalism. This guaranteed that the vast majority of Black workers remained in poverty while some white politicians and businessmen were replaced with Black ones.

Israel, U.S. Tied to Imperialism

So why did Governor Cuomo take action against BDS if it is not a real threat to Israel? Cuomo has interests in higher office and needs to show that he is pro-Israel. Every president since Israel's creation has supported Israel, including the present candidates for the office, Trump, and Clinton. Israel serves as a strategic military watchdog for the U.S. in the Middle East, and the U.S. gives Israel $3 billion in aid every year in exchange for protection of oil profits.

Although BDS is not the solution to oppression and brutality in Israel, many militant anti-Zionists, Jewish and Arab, are active in BDS. We must win them to see that only a mass PLP can defeat U.S. imperialism and its worldwide terror.

Comrades in several cities are involved in organizations that promote BDS and we are struggling with workers to see the power of communism. We shall continue to bring our revolutionary perspective to our fellow activists, promoting the international fight against capitalism.✪

DNC, AFT, RNC Conventions:

Capitalism in Crisis

Over two weeks in July three major U.S. ruling-class organizations are mounting watershed conventions: the American Federation of Teachers, the Republican National Committee, and the Democratic National Committee. Each represents a ruling-class effort to build a nationalist, racist consensus around the attacks in store for workers and their children in the months and years to come.

The rebels of Ferguson and Baltimore, and now Baton Rouge and St. Paul, have shown the international working class that we have better options than voting and passivity. Militant striking teachers in Oaxaca, Mexico, risking their lives to fight for schools their students deserve, point us to another way. Members of Progressive Labor Party are active in these struggles and more, and our call is clear: Workers of the world, unite and fight for communism!

What can the rulers offer our class? Nothing! Instability and terror grip the Middle East (see editorial, page 2). Russian imperialism squares off against NATO in Europe, with both sides resorting to an aggressive nuclear weapon "deterrence" policy last seen during the Cold War. Chinese imperialism makes the shipping lanes of the South China Sea a flashpoint for potential global conflict.

In the wake of racist police murders in Minnesota, Louisiana, Brooklyn and beyond; in light of the swift death U.S. imperialism brings to workers in the Muslim world and the slow death capitalism means for billions across the globe, PLP makes this call to attendees and opposition forces in Minneapolis, Cleveland and Philadelphia:

NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL!
DISRUPT BOSSES' CONVENTIONS!
DON'T VOTE, REVOLT!

DNC: DUMP CLINTON

Hillary and Bill Clinton and their allies have fronted for the capitalist bosses' war on the international working class for two decades. Hillary was her husband's working partner during his viciously anti-worker administration of the 1990s. (As she once famously said, "We are the president.") She was an especially vocal advocate for the sexist, racist welfare reform that threw millions of people—disproportionately Black mothers and children—into extreme poverty.

Hillary Clinton also backed the 1994 crime bill, including the "three strikes" rule, that paved the way for mass racist incarceration and expanded the prison industrial complex for privatized slave labor. She dehumanized Black youth in gangs as "super-predators" with "no conscience, no empathy…we have to bring them to heel." The 100,000 additional cops who flooded U.S. city streets, another provision of the Clinton crime bill, were trained as an occupying army. The recent wave of racist murders by police—lynchings by any other name—are the fruit of that legislation.

Through sanctions and indiscriminate bombings of Iraq, the Clintons slaughtered 500,000 Iraqi children. As U.S. senator, Hillary Clinton enthusiastically backed the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq to shore up US control over Middle Eastern oil, killing hundreds of thousands more civilians in the process. As Barack Obama's Secretary of State, she took a lead role in engineering attacks on civilians in Libya and the coup in Honduras that helped make it the murder capital of the world. Now she is leading the charge for a more aggressive U.S. intervention in Syria, a conflict that has already killed hundreds of thousands and left millions on the run.

While Clinton is finance capital's favored candidate, her bottomless greed and arrogant recklessness are making the bosses nervous. The State Department email scandal—and an ensuing front-page reprimand in the New York Times, the premier capitalist mouthpiece—manifests a grave problem for the ruling class. Clinton inspires so little trust that she may be unable to garner mass support for the wider war U.S. rulers are counting on to save their shaky empire.

Now that Bernie Sanders has capped his "political revolution" by endorsing an arch-imperialist and Wall Street insider, his role as a cynical misleader of honest workers and youth may be nearing an end. In the ultimate exercise of "lesser evil" politics, he's now asking his followers to trust the liberal bosses to defeat Donald Trump's gutter racism.

But voting will never smash racism. Nothing short of a communist revolution can accomplish that essential task.

AFT: TEACHERS, TAKE THE STREETS!

In this brutally unequal system, teachers are expected to play a stabilizing role. They are directed to prepare future workers, soldiers and inmates for the U.S. ruling class to use and discard in their drive for maximum profit and imperialist dominion.

When Hillary Clinton visits Minneapolis for the AFT Convention, don't stand and cheer for an imperialist butcher! Don't applaud an architect of mass racist incarceration! Teachers must stand with Diamond Reynolds, whose fiancé, Philando Castile, was executed before her eyes—and with her four-year-old daughter in the car's back seat. We must WALK OUT when Hillary takes the stage and join local protests against racism.

Beginning in 2002, Philando was a cafeteria worker in the St. Paul public schools. He was a strong and positive force in his school community, knowing all 530 students at J.J. Hill Montessori School by name and their particular dietary needs (Vox, 7/8). This is the workingman taken from us. There can be NO BUSINESS AS USUAL in the face of racist police murder.

Meanwhile, the AFT leadership has been complicit in a decades-long pattern of deepening segregation. In 2010, union president Randi Weingarten embraced Bill Gates, the apostle of a charter school movement that has intensified this segregation. Recently, the AFT has signed on to data-driven education reforms that ramp up stress and stigma for students, parents and teachers alike.

While union hacks have devised increasingly elaborate stratagems to sell out students and teachers to reformist billionaires, education workers in PLP have taken up the task of organizing parents, students and teachers to turn racist attacks on our schools into their opposite. An injury to one is an injury to all! We are building the multiracial unity we will need to unite the working class and overthrow capitalism—the source of our exploitation—once and for all. We seek to sustain the communist traditions pioneered by Cuban masses who, in 1961, suspended high school and fanned out to the countryside to defeat illiteracy. Or the Chinese youth who, in 1966, launched a Cultural Revolution (later betrayed by Mao) to push their society forward to communism. Or the Bolsheviks who smashed sexist prohibitions against women's access to basic and higher education after the Russian Revolution of 1917.

More of the same isn't working; we need communism! AFT delegates: Keep an eye out for CHALLENGE supplements, and check www.plp.org. We need your help in distributing our literature among your colleagues back home.

RNC: IT'S CAPITALISM'S FAULT

Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential candidate, is blatantly racist and sexist. He is the favored candidate of the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi sympathizers the world over, from Louisiana's David Duke to France's Marine Le Pen.

Disaffected workers misled by Trump are being pitted against Black, Latin, Muslim and immigrant workers. These divisions are pervasive in the U.S., from education to housing to employment. (*See antiracistbattle at Trump fundraiser on page 3*).

Trump's gutter politics flow naturally from a long history of racist policies and pronouncements by both Republicans and Democrats. They date back to the Declaration of Independence—a document, as a scholar of American history recently noted in the *New York Times*, that voiced the Founding Fathers' fears of rebellious Black slaves and "merciless Indian savages." Voting against Trump does nothing to challenge or disrupt that history.

The finance capital bosses whom both Trump and Hillary Clinton represent—ExxonMobil, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase—use their media to keep workers invested in a bought-and-paid-for political process. If anything, Trump has helped the main wing of the ruling class by marginalizing the Tea Party movement and more domestic-oriented capitalists like the Koch Brothers.

Taking heed of Trump's volatility, which could be bad for business, the bosses' newspapers, websites and talking heads are doing all they can to lead anti-racist workers into the arms of Hillary Clinton. But a vote for either of these candidates stands in absolute contradiction to workers' class interests.

Fortunately, we have a better choice than dead-end electoral politics: mass anti-racist class struggle and the Progressive Labor Party.

The surprising success of Trump and Sanders reflects workers' outrage at perpetual mass unemployment and the grotesque inequalities of U.S. capitalism. Meanwhile, AFT members are left to pick up the pieces of a devastated society in segregated, overcrowded, underfunded urban schools. Capitalism is a proven failure, and all workers—and their innocent children—pay the price.

The DNC and RNC are both controlled by the main wing of the U.S. ruling class. Their conventions are rigged to select presidential candidates who will be willing and able to lead the U.S. into global inter-imperialist war. Teachers are expected to push nationalist ideology while staffing an educational apparatus that sorts

Continued on page 6